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Congressman Dent comments on Iraq Study Group

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent (PA-15) said today the Iraq Study Group's (ISG) report is an important milestone in forging a strategy for America's remaining involvement in Iraq. Congressman Dent issued the following statement:

"Iraq is presently the pre-eminent issue of this Congress. I welcome the report of the congressionally chartered Iraq Study Group (ISG) and I extend my thanks to the group's highly qualified members for their dedication to this serious task. This report represents a meaningful starting point for discussions about America's evolving role in Iraq.

"American and coalition operations in Iraq since the fall of Saddam have met with many challenges. Now is the time for Iraq to forge its future and for us to develop a plan for America's remaining engagement there.

"I believe the ISG has correctly identified some key truths about the Iraqi conflict as we move forward. There are no easy answers to success, but there are clear consequences of failure.

"Iraqis must be responsible to stabilize their country and resolve their sectarian conflicts. We must engage all means at our disposal to help them, but we cannot do it for them. Above all, the ISG concurs with the generally held belief that precipitous or sudden departure of American presence in Iraq could be disastrous and destabilizing.

“I look forward to working in a bipartisan manner with my colleagues in Congress and the Administration as we consider the recommendations of the ISG and establish and execute a strategy for our future involvement in Iraq.”

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